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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Esa SUOKAS et al.  
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MATERIALS AND IMPLANTS**  
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Attn.: DO/EO/US

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination of the application filed herewith, please amend, without prejudice, the above-captioned application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.